

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000070

International filing date (day/month/year)
09.01.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
10.01.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
G07D7/00

Applicant
MONEY CONTROLS LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized Officer

Anastasov, Y

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2773



WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000070

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000070

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-36
	No: Claims	none
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-36
	No: Claims	none
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-36
	No: Claims	none

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/GB2004/000070

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Documents

The following documents are referred to in this communication:

D1 : US 5 355 989 A (BEST JOCHEN) 18 October 1994 (1994-10-18)
D2 : EP 1 156 458 A (MARS INC) 21 November 2001 (2001-11-21)
D3 : WO 00/48138 A (COIN CONTROLS ; BELL MALCOLM REGINALD HALLAS (GB)) 17 August 2000 (2000-08-17)

2. Novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability

After overcoming all objections stated in Items VII and VIII (points 3, 4 and 5), the present application will meet the requirements of PCT with respect to novelty (Article 33(2) PCT) and inventive step (Article 33(3)PCT).

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

3. Multiple independent claims

Although claims 1, 13, 25, 26, and 36 have been drafted as separate independent claims, they appear to relate effectively to the same subject-matter and to differ from each other only with regard to the definition of the subject-matter for which protection is sought and in respect of the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter. The aforementioned claims therefore lack conciseness and as such do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

The claim set should be amended to contain only one independent method claim (and one independent system claim), with dependent claims appended therefore (rule 6.4(a)(part), (b), (c) PCT).

4. Remarks

- a) The features of the claims 1-36 are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).
- b) Independent claims 1, 13, 25, 26, and 36 are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art D1-D3 being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).
- c) The applicant is also requested to clearly identify the amendments carried out, irrespective of whether they concern amendments by addition, replacement or deletion, and to indicate the passages of the application as filed on which these amendments are based in order to facilitate the examination of the conformity of the amended application with the requirements of Articles 19(2) and 34(2)(b) PCT.
- d) The applicant should furthermore specify, in his accompanying letter, which technical problem is overcome in a non-obvious way by the features which distinguish the new independent claims from the disclosures of D1, D2 and D3.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

5. Clarity

- a) The terms used in claim 1 "the first of them" and "second of them" are unclear and leaves the reader in doubt Article 6 PCT. It is unclear is it "the first number of subsequent occurrences of the parameter signal" or "the first number of money items". The patent examiner assumes that the applicant means "a first number of subsequent occurrences of parameter signal" and this meaning will be used for the rest of the procedure.
- b) The vague term "relatively" should be deleted to make the application (description and claims) more clear Article 6 PCT.

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/GB2004/000070

- c) The additional features of claim 2 are unclear and leaves the reader in doubt Article 6 PCT. It is unclear the use of term "first number" and the term "second number", see also page 5, lines 1-25.